

MONROE CITY DEMOCRAT

Volume XXXI

Monroe City, Missouri, Friday, December 20, 1918

Number 38

Only 4 More Shopping Days



AND we are still well prepared to supply your wants in good practical gifts—gifts of merit, gifts of quality, and at the right price. We add new things right along to our already abundant selection of appreciative gifts.

Busy? Yes!

We are very busy these days, but come in just the same, we can take care of you as we have added extra help for this occasion.

We Sell Munsing Underwear for the Entire Family

We Give Thrift Coupons

Our Big Cut Price Sale on Coats and Suits is Certainly Moving them; Better Look 'em Over Before they are all Gone

WE DO WHAT WE ADVERTISE

A. A. Melson Dry Goods Company

Monroe City, Missouri

Reflected Glory

The man who stayed at home finds his heart swelling with pride as he thinks what our people have done in the war. As we read of those deathless exploits of our boys in the Argonne, how grand it does seem to be an American. Many of us think so much along this line that we almost feel that we have done these things ourselves.

As a matter of fact most of us have not done much. Those of us who did not go, or send our own boys, simply stayed at home and underwent minor discomforts. We made rather trifling sacrifices, but we haven't done anything very big, nor anything indicating great heroism.

There is a great tendency to take on reflected glory and assume credit for it, and substitute it for doing things ourselves. You see that in people interested in sports. They will get out and yell for a ball team, and get just as much satisfaction rooting for the nine as if they had played the game and won the victory themselves. It is of course a fine thing to give this loyal support to any home interest. But at the same time it is not the same thing as doing something yourself to be proud of.

Let us try from this time forth not to depend for our feelings of pride merely on things that our neighbors and our representatives have done, but to try to do things ourselves worthy of the American name.

We are not called upon to cut lines of barbed wire in the deadly Argonne. But we are asked to take up year by year the sometimes onerous tasks of our civic life and to do things for the public welfare. Let us then be more worthy of the grand boys we have sent out to win the war, and try to do a little something in the home life of Monroe City that will make some little return for what has been given us.

We all enjoyed the taste of balmy spring with which the weatherman flavored the last few days. We enjoyed it for many reasons, not the least of which was the fact that it enabled us to put the stove on short rations. We enjoyed it, too, because we felt that it might quicken the ben to a sense of her daily responsibility. The weatherman has made us love him. We expect great things of him. Let him not disappoint us.

The influenza has taken a fresh start in Monroe City again there being a number of new cases each day but no serious ones at present. The Monroe City schools were closed again Monday until after the holidays there being a number of cases among the pupils and several of the teachers in the public school being ill with the disease.

William Ray is the name of a fine 7-12 pound boy who arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Less Norton of Rock Island, Ill., Sunday December 15, 1918. The mother was formerly Miss Etra Watts. She is at present at the home of her mother Mrs. Mary Watts near Hunnington.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Maddox of Hannibal spent Saturday and Sunday in this city with their parents they were accompanied home by Miss Margaret Smith who had been visiting there the past two weeks.

Laurence McNeillis went to Kansas City Sunday he being called there by the death of his niece, Mrs. Alma Conley.

WSS Watch Meeting

On New Year's eve in hundreds of school houses in Missouri the men and women of the State will meet to talk over the war work that has been done in the past year.

Hundreds of old-fashioned "watch meetings" are to be held that night. One has been called by WSS committee in every district of the State. Missouri proposes to make this a sort of an "experience meeting" as well as a watch meeting that night. Furthermore, the real patriots, those who did their best even though they served at home, are to be placed on a record that will be a Roll of Honor. And while this is being done, the slacker, who could have bought WSS but did not—his name will be placed on another list and that list will be sent to become a part of the permanent records of the State of Missouri. The State does not propose to lose sight of the fact, in the future, that there were Those Who Helped and Those Who Refused.

These will be never-to-be-forgotten meetings. The events of the years of war will be fresh and clear in the minds of all. There will be mourning worn for the dead in

France on many present at these meetings. There will be boys back from the shrapnelled, machine-gunned hell of the West Front with empty sleeves and wound chevrons on their arms. There will be sailor lads back from where they hunted the Hun along the ocean lanes, and these lads will watch keenly the records that have been made by the stay at homes.

As midnight approaches, after the letters from abroad have been read and the experiences of the war have been told, some one will rise and call the roll of this district. The names of those who have met their pledges like good and true Americans will be read. Following this list will come that of the men and the women of each district who have failed to keep their pledges—or who have refused to make any pledges.

Within a few days, the lists, both lists will go forward to the county and State officers. These will be kept on file. The man who claims credit for something he did not do will easily have his claims refuted. The lists will be there—the lists of the Patriots and the lists of the Slacker.

Red Cross Week

The membership fee you have to pay to enter an organization is no fair test of the value of the society. In the larger cities society people gladly give from \$100 to \$1000 to belong to their swell clubs. There may be little social life, the atmosphere here may be frosty, the associations distant and unfriendly. But they have the glory of inviting friends to the exclusive club house and showing it off as their property. A rather barren satisfaction to simple minded and genuine people.

On the other hand there is one organization to which you can belong for \$1.00 a year. That is the American Red Cross. A thrill of happiness will be felt by you every time you see its blessed symbol. Its white ground stands for its pure zeal of service. The red of the cross stands for the suffering humanity that it relieves and helps back on its feet.

No aristocratic society which one could possibly join is worth so much as the sense of affiliation with this noble effort, the knowledge that you belong to that great army of ministering spirits who are binding up the world's wounds, and

nursing the suffering back to health.

Some people may feel that now the war is over, the Red Cross will not need so much money. But there are millions of famine stricken and homeless people, to whom this Christmas will be one of black despair.

The Red Cross has before it the work of years to relieve this suffering and get these bewildered and helpless people on their feet again. It needs every dollar that it can get and it needs the sympathy and co-operation of every man woman and child in Monroe City. Membership costs such a trifle. Is there anyone who will refuse it?

The Masons held a meeting Friday evening December 13, and elected the following officers: Roy G. Melson, Worshipful Master, E. W. Schweer, Senior Warden; T. M. Boulware, Junior Warden; Emmett Yowell, Treasure; W. R. P. Jackson, Secretary. These officers together with the appointive officers will be installed Friday night Dec. 27.

Edward Drescher came in Sunday night from San Diego, California, he having been honorably discharged from the Naval Station there.